

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 MC-02 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EUR-25 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /170 W
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P 180700Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9990

INFO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2545

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MU

SUBJ: OMAN ARMS PROCUREMENT

REF: A. KUWAIT 2543; B. MUSCAT A-24

1. CHESTER A. NAGLE, AMCIT WITH CARD STATING HE "SPECIAL MILITARY ADVISER TO HM THE SULTAN OF OMAN" CALLED ON CHARGE JUNE 17. SHOWED CHARGE COPIES OF LETTER SULTAN HAD SENT TO SECSTATE MARCH 23, 1974 BY PERSONAL MESSENGER. LETTER REFERS TO JANUARY TALKS BETWEEN SULTAN'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND STATE DEPARTMENT AND STATES THAT SULTAN HAS APPOINTED NAGLE AS SPECIAL MILITARY ADVISER IN THE U.S.A. NAGLE ALSO SHOWED CHARGE NOTE QUOTED PARA ONE REF A, APPARENTLY SIGNED AND SEALED BY SULTAN QABOOS.

2. NAGLE STATED HE WORKED IN OFFICE OF HENRY KUSS IN OSD/ISA 1967-69. THEREAFTER HE HAD BEEN HEAD OF US FIRM NAMED AERO-MARITIME BUT RECENTLY LEFT AND WAS OFFERED APPOINTMENT IN OMAN.

3. NAGLE STATED HE CONSIDERED THAT AS MILITARY ADVISER TO SULTAN HE SHOULD RECOMMEND WHATEVER MILITARY EQUIPMENT, US OR OTHERWISE, HE THOUGH MOST SUITABLE. HE EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF SULTAN'S BRITISH ADVISERS VERY KEEN TO SELL BRITISH EQUIPMENT
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TO EXCLUSION OF ALL ELSE WHEREVER POSSIBLE. THIS ESPECIALLY

TRUE OF BRIGADIER SEMPLE, SECRETARY TO DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER FAHAR.

4. NAGLE EXPLAINED THAT IN HIS AUDIENCE WITH SULTAN AT SALALAH ON JUNE 15 SULTAN WAS CONCERNED WITH AIR DEFENSE AND ARMOR. RE AIR DEFENSE, RECENT FLIGHT OF AN-22 AROUND SALALAH WEEK OF JUNE 10 HAD ALARMED SULTAN AND HE ANXIOUS SET UP SOME TYPE OF AIR DEFENSE. GENERAL CREASEY HAD ASKED FOR US REDEYE MISSILE, BUT NAGLE SAID HE DOUBTED IT WOULD BE AVAILABLE AND HIS DOUBTS WERE LATER CONFIRMED THROUGH PENTAGON CONTACTS. IN VIEW OF THIS, OMANI GOVERNMENT PROCEEDING WITH ACQUISITION OF RAPIER AND NAGLE SAYS THIS PROBABLY MOST SUITABLE FOR THEIR NEEDS.

5. SULTAN'S OTHER CONCERN WAS WITH PDRY T-54 TANKS ON OTHER SIDE BORDER. OMAN HAS NO MEANS COUNTERING THEM EXCEPT MINES AND THESE DIFFICULT USE BECAUSE THERE FEW ROADS IN AREA. NAGLE RECOMMENDED TOW MISSILES FOR THIS PURPOSE AND SULTAN AGREED. SULTAN ALSO WANTED SENSORS TO DETECT BORDER CROSSING AND NAGLE SAID THAT SINCE US HAD APPROVED UK LOAN OF THIS EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN OMAN HE EXPECTED USG WOULD SELL IT TO OMAN GOVT. WITH THREE-MONTH MONSOON NOW BEGINNING, OMANIS EXPECT INCREASED MINING FROM REBELS THAT WILL HAVE TO BE CLEARED AT END OF PERIOD. NAGLE RECOMMENDING FOUR-D COMPANY IN FLORIDA MAKE DIRECT OFFER TO SELL 100 MINE DETECTORS TO OMAN GOVERNMENT.

6. NAGLE EXPLAINED HIS ARMS PROCUREMENT MISSION SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL BECAUSE NORMAL PATTERN WOULD BE FOR GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE THROUGH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND BRIGADIER SEMPLE. HOWEVER, NAGLE STATES THAT IF MATTER EVER GOT TO SEMPLE IT WOULD PROBABLY NEVER GET TO USG. SULTAN, HE SAYS, NOT ENTIRELY AWARE OF WAY BUSINESS BEING HANDLED AT LOWER ECHELON.

7. NAGLE TO ARRIVE WASHINGTON JUNE 20 VIA LONDON. HE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH SULTAN'S EQUERRY LANDON WHO WILL BE IN WASHINGTON AT THAT TIME ON SOME MISSION WITH WHICH NAGLE UNFAMILIAR.

8. COMMENT: MY IMPRESSION OF NAGLE IS THAT HE IS TELLING STRAIGHT STORY AND I BELIEVE HIS DESCRIPTION SITUATION IN OMAN RE ARMS PROCUREMENT PROBABLY VERY NEARLY CORRECT. IN ANY EVENT, DEPARTMENT PRESUMABLY HAS LETTER OF MARCH 23 WITH SIGNATURE AND SEAL SULTAN
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AND THAT COULD BE COMPARED WITH LETTER NAGLE IS CARRYING FROM SULTAN TO CHECK NAGLE'S AUTHORITY. APPEARS TO US NAGLE COULD BE DEFINITE HELP TO AMBASSADOR WOLLE IN HIS RELATIONS WITH OMAN GOVT DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT AND COULD HELP BRING ABOUT CLOSER USG/OMAN COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD.
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